



In Cooperation With:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A.
Rutgers University

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Rainfall amounts, tenth of an inch with locally higher amounts possible this afternoon, none tonight and Tuesday.

Winds for spraying, west 10 to 20 mph today, west winds decreasing around 5 mph tonight, west 5 to 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent, 45 to 55 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 40 to 50 Tuesday.

Dew points, upper 30s today and tonight, low 30s Tuesday.

Drying conditions, fair to good today but possibly turning poor during this afternoon, good Tuesday.

Frost freeze or dew, light dew tonight and again Tuesday night with some scattered frost possible in the more sensitive inland locations.

Percent of possible sunshine, 50 today, 50 Tuesday.

There is a 50 percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain free period after application.

Temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs could fall to 24 to 28 tonight and 21 to 25 Tuesday night.

Hay cutting will see a moderate threat of wetting in showers this afternoon. Drier air should move into the region tonight and continue in place through much of the week.

Four inch soil temperatures are in the low 50s north and mid 50s central and south. Soil temperatures will hold steady over the next couple of days.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 9, 2005, through May 15, 2005, is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to total below normal.

Temperatures averaged below normal, averaging 52 degrees north, 53 degrees central, and 55 degrees south. Extremes were 74 degrees at Flemington and New Brunswick on April 27, 2005, and 32 degrees at Long Branch and Charlotteburg on May 2, 2005.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.86 inches north, 1.66 inches central, and 1.24 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 2.10 inches at Freehold on April 30, 2005 through May 1, 2005.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 87 percent north, 86 percent central, and 65 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 52 degrees north, 53 degrees central, and 54 degrees south.

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days 1/		Soil Moisture 2/
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week				Total	Dept.*	
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*			
- Inches -				- Degrees -				- Base 50°F -		
NORTH										
Belvidere Bridge	.60	9.00	.97	72	36	52	-3	131	86	98
Canoe Brook	.76	9.05	.22	72	35	54	-1	165	130	84
Charlotteburg	.98	11.17	2.48	71	32	50	-2	100	91	93
Flemington	1.12	10.87	2.41	74	34	53	-2	126	86	93
Newton	.84	9.44	1.69	70	37	52	-1	116	98	85
CENTRAL										
Freehold	2.42	11.10	2.73	73	36	55	-1	158	95	100
Long Branch				DATA NOT AVAILABLE						
New Brunswick	1.22	9.13	1.07	74	36	55	-2	146	64	95
Toms River	2.18	9.50	1.04	70	39	54	-2	116	61	100
Trenton	.86	8.24	.65	73	38	54	-4	148	49	90
SOUTH										
Cape May C.H.	1.03	6.91	-.46	67	41	53	-4	89	6	72
Downstown	1.40	8.69	1.09	70	39	54	-4	134	29	98
Glassboro	1.36	9.89	1.88	72	40	56	-2	170	71	97
Hammonton	1.30	8.53	.74	71	39	55	-3	150	56	87
Pomona	1.07	8.12	.69	69	40	54	-2	109	42	91
Seabrook	1.28	9.24	2.45	71	41	57	-1	207	99	96
South Harrison	1.50	9.62	1.99	70	41	56	NA	183	NA	NA

2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

Spring Vegetable Harvest Continues

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, May 1, 2005, were 5.6. Topsoil moisture was rated 7% short, 84% adequate and 9% surplus. Irrigation water supply was rated 2% short, 96% adequate and 2% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week across most of the state. Temperatures for the week averaged below normal. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops, along with some irrigation in localities where the surface soil had dried out. Other activities included fertilizing, herbicide spraying, tending greenhouses, laying plastic mulch, and transplanting greenhouse crops. Planting of field corn began in the southern district. Spring vegetable and potato planting continued. The first planting of peas was up in the southern district. There was harvest of leek, arugula, green onions, radishes, cilantro, broccoli rabe, spinach, and parsley. Harvest of asparagus continued. Peach trees were past bloom in northern orchards. In the northern district apple trees were in full bloom. In some fields in the south, blueberry plants were in full bloom. Some strawberry plants in the central locality were beginning to form fruits. Small grains and hay crops were rated in mostly good condition across the state.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 2, 2005	
Arugula - Being harvested in light volume. Volume should continue to pick up each week.	Dill - Should be available by the third week of May.
Asparagus - Being harvested in fair volume. Volume should continue to increase each week.	Escarole/Endive - Should begin harvesting around the end of May.
Cilantro - A little bit of over-wintered product is available now and for at least several more weeks. Spring planted should be available by the third week of May.	Lettuces - Should begin harvesting Romaine and Boston around the third week of May.
Dandelions - Over-wintered product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.	Parsley - Over-wintered product will be available sometime next week.
Leeks - A small volume of over-wintered product is available now and for some time.	Strawberries - We grow the same Chandler variety as grown in California, with one exception. Jersey Fresh berries are picked when ripe and can arrive in our region's markets quicker and fresher than the competition. Our berries have more red interior color than white since they're physically more mature and ripe. They're grown in raised beds, under black plastic, with a large berry size, good interior color, and excellent taste. They're a better quality and better tasting product than berries from elsewhere. One chain was selling them at almost twice the price as other berries last year and could not keep them in stock.
Radishes - Being harvested in minimal volume. Volume should pick up next week.	Due to this winter's colder weather, the season is running just a bit late. Early harvests are expected to begin in mid-May, while the bulk of the crop will be harvested towards the end of May, with lower volumes to continue through the first week of June.
JERSEY FRESH FORECAST	
Beets - Harvest should begin in another two weeks or so.	Turnips - Should begin harvesting around the end of May.
Cabbage - Harvest should begin in late May or early June.	
Collards - Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.	